

wilderness recommendation



PADRE ISLAND



NATIONAL SEASHORE • TEXAS

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION



**Padre Island
National Seashore
Texas**

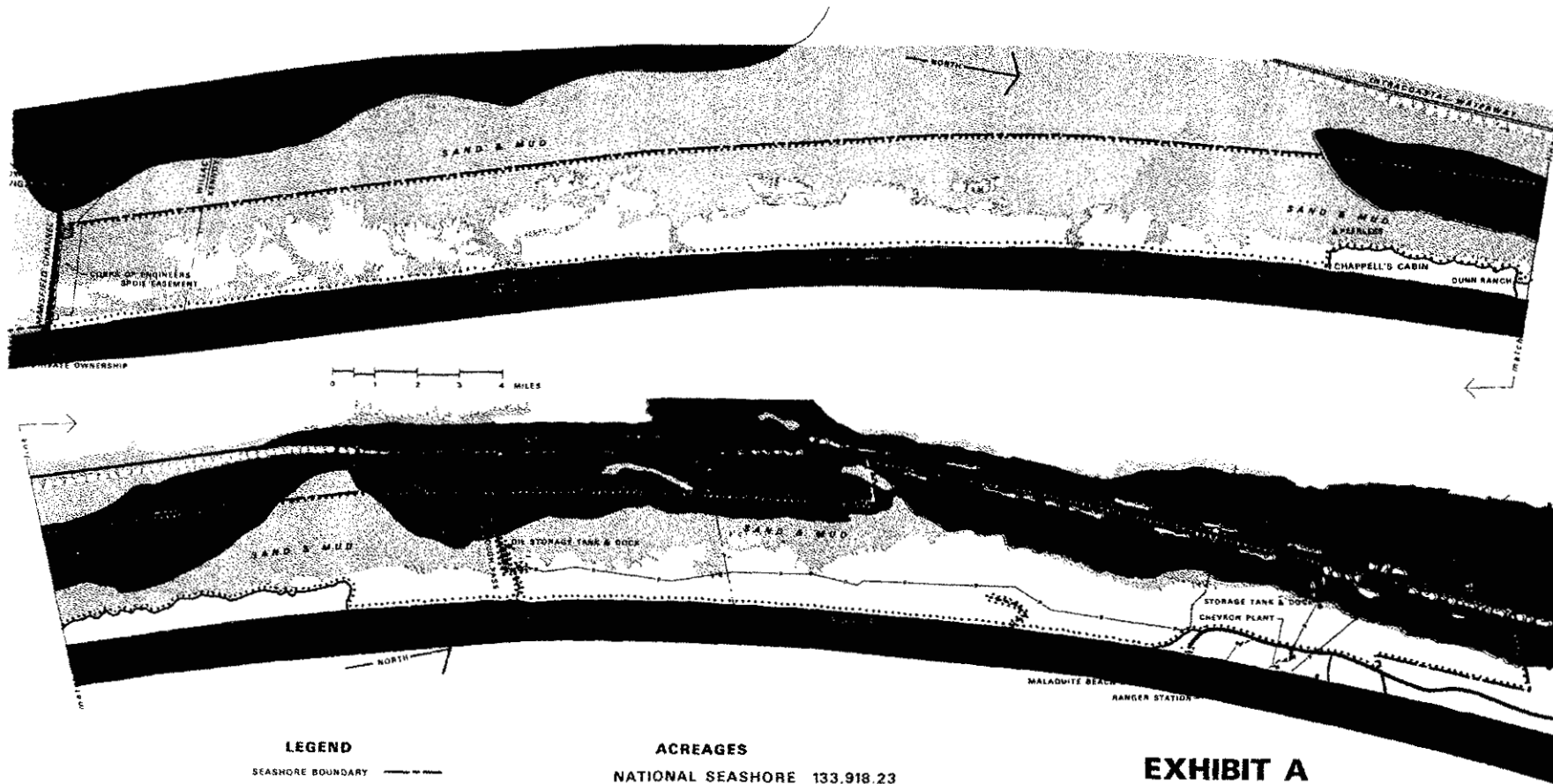
August 1972

RECOMMENDATION

1

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT NO WILDERNESS BE DESIGNATED WITHIN PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE.

THIS RECOMMENDATION IS BASED UPON CAREFUL STUDY OF THE SEASHORE, THE VIEWS PRESENTED AT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND THE WRITTEN RESPONSES CONCERNING THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS STUDY DESCRIBED IN THE APPENDED HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT.



LEGEND

SEASHORE BOUNDARY	
PUBLIC ROADS	
MANAGEMENT ROADS	
FEDERAL LAND	
NON-FEDERAL LAND	
GAS WELLS	
PIPELINES	
ROADLESS AREA LINE	

ACREAGES

NATIONAL SEASHORE	133,918.23
FEDERAL LANDS	133,839.93
NON-FEDERAL LANDS	78.30
ROADLESS AREA	108,000

EXHIBIT A
NO WILDERNESS PROPOSED

WILDERNESS STUDY
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE
TEXAS



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

August 14, 1972

Dear Mr. President:

Section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (approved September 3, 1964, 78 Stat. 890, 892; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)) directs the Secretary of the Interior to review every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments, and other units of the National Park System, and every such area of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges under his jurisdiction, and to report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or unsuitability of each area for preservation as wilderness.

Review has been completed of 108,000 acres of roadless areas within Padre Island National Seashore, Texas. Based on that review, I have concluded that these lands are not suitable for designation as wilderness by the Congress.

The conclusion that these lands are not suitable for wilderness designation is based upon the provisions of Public Law 87-712, dated September 28, 1962, which established Padre Island National Seashore. The law contains a mineral reservation provision (Sec. 4(a) and (b)) that states that the Secretary of the Interior "shall permit a reservation to the grantor" of lands and waters for the seashore "of all or any part of the oil and gas minerals in such land or waters and of other minerals therein which can be removed," and the right to occupy and use as much of the land surface or waters as may be required for all purposes related to the mining or removal of such minerals under regulations prescribed by the Secretary. The law further states that any acquisition "shall exclude and shall not diminish any right of occupation or use of the surface under grants, leases, or easements existing on April 11, 1961, which are reasonably necessary for the exploration, development, production, storing, processing, or transporting of oil and gas minerals that are removed from outside the boundaries of the national seashore and the Secretary may grant additional rights of occupation or use of the surface" for these purposes under such regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

Because these State-owned and privately owned mineral rights exist throughout the entire roadless area, none of these lands are suitable for wilderness designation.

Approximately one-half of the National Seashore is presently classified as a primitive area and we will continue to manage these lands for such purposes, thereby preserving their pristine characteristics. At such time as the oil and gas leases expire, we intend to make another review of the entire seashore for the purpose of recommending lands that may be suitable for wilderness.

In accordance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act, public hearings were held on the recommendations in Brownsville and Corpus Christi, Texas on March 23 and 25, 1972, respectively. Analysis of the hearing records and written expressions received together with letters received from other Federal agencies, are contained in the enclosed report of the National Park Service. Complete records have been compiled and are available for inspection by the public.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rogers C.B. Morton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary of the Interior

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 21, 1972

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Pursuant to the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, I am pleased to transmit herewith proposals for sixteen additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

As described in the Wilderness Message that I am sending to the Congress today, these proposed new wilderness areas cover a total of nearly 3.5 million primeval acres.

Two other possibilities considered by the Secretary of the Interior in his review of roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more -- White Sands National Monument, New Mexico, and Padre Island National Seashore, Texas -- were found to be unsuitable for inclusion in the Wilderness System. I concur in this finding and in the sixteen favorable recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior, all of which are transmitted herewith.

Concurrent with the wilderness proposals, I am also transmitting the Eighth Annual Report on the Status of the National Wilderness Preservation System which covers calendar year 1971.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. M. Nixon", written in a cursive style.

Honorable Carl Albert
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515